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-USSR: U.S. 'INTERFERENCE' IN PHILIPPINES CRITICIZED

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[OWN CORRESPONDENT D. KOSYREV DISPATCH, LEONID KUZNETSOV  
"OBSERVER'S OPINION," AND REUTER DISPATCH UNDER GENERAL HEADING:  
"ATTEMPTED COUP"]

[EXCERPTS] MANILA, 1 DEC -- AS I DICTATE THESE LINES, PHILIPPINES TELEVISION, BACK ON THE AIR AFTER A LENGTHY BREAK, IS BROADCASTING A PRESS CONFERENCE BY PRESIDENT C. AQUINO. SHE BEGAN BY DECLARING THAT THE COUNTRY'S DEFENSE MINISTER F. RAMOS HAS, ON HER ORDERS, ASKED THE UNITED STATES FOR HELP. U.S. AIRCRAFT STATIONED AT THE U.S. AIR FORCE BASE AT CLARK FIELD HAVE BEEN SCRAMBLED. A COUPLE OF FIGHTERS ARE ROARING PAST AT LOW ALTITUDE BEFORE COMING IN FOR A FRESH RUN. THIS HAS CLEARLY TILTED THE SCALES IN FAVOR OF THE GOVERNMENT TROOPS, BUT THE SITUATION REMAINS UNCLEAR.

## OBSERVER'S OPINION [SUBHEAD]

ONE POINT ABOUT THE REPORTS FROM MANILA IS WORRYING -- U.S. ARMED FORCES ARE TAKING PART IN SUPPRESSING THE ATTEMPTED REVOLT.

HITHERTO, EVEN AT THE MOST CRITICAL MOMENTS, C. AQUINO'S ADMINISTRATION HAS ALWAYS MANAGED BY ITSELF AND HAS SUCCESSFULLY PUT DOWN FIVE RIGHT-WING MILITARY REVOLTS. WHY IS IT FORCED TO RESORT TO AID FROM FOREIGN SOLDIERS TODAY?

THE OPPONENTS OF DETENTE AND BELLICOSE MILITARIST CIRCLES ACROSS THE OCEAN HAVE LONG BEEN SEEKING A PRETEXT TO ENSURE ACTIVE AND BROAD INTERFERENCE IN THE PHILIPPINES' INTERNAL AFFAIRS BY RELYING ON DOMESTIC REACTION, PRIMARILY IN THE ARMED FORCES, AS A LAST RESORT. THEY ARE PRIMARILY WORRIED BY THE FACT THAT A MOVEMENT AGAINST THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IS SWELLING IN THE ARCHIPELAGO, AND ITS MEMBERS ARE ADVOCATING THE ELIMINATION OF U.S. BASES OR AT LEAST THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SOME CONTROL OVER THEIR "NUCLEAR AMBITIONS."

IN RESPONSE TO THESE JUSTIFIED DEMANDS, THE PENTAGON RESORTED TO SUNDRY MANEUVERS -- FROM BLACKMAIL USING THE "SOVIET MILITARY THREAT" TO PROMISES TO "SLAM THE DOOR" AND MOVE ITS BASES SOMEWHERE ELSE IN THE REGION (SINGAPORE, FOR EXAMPLE), THUS SHARPLY AGGRAVATING THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC POSITION. BUT THE FILIPINOS DID NOT REACT TO THESE MANEUVERS THE WAY THE MILITARISTS EXPECTED. MOREOVER, THEY ARE CONTINUING TO INSIST THAT THEY MUST RESERVE THE RIGHT TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE BASES QUESTION THAT BEST SUITS THE NATION WHEN THE U.S.-PHILIPPINES AGREEMENT RUNS OUT.

THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS COME TO MIND IN THIS CONTEXT: EVEN IF THE OMNIPRESENT CIA AGENTS DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN ELABORATING THE COUP PLANS, THEY PROBABLY KNEW ABOUT THEM. BUT THEY DID NOT INFORM THE AQUINO ADMINISTRATION OF THIS. WHY? IT IS NOT HARD TO GUESS. BY HELPING THE PRESIDENT TO PUT DOWN THIS ACTION BY THE REGIME'S OPPONENTS, THE AMERICANS ARE DEMONSTRATING THE [PHILIPPINE] ADMINISTRATION'S WEAKNESS AND ARE FORCING IT TO BE MORE AMENABLE AT THE TALKS ON THE BASES. IT SHOULD ALSO BE GRATEFUL THAT THE THREAT OF A COUP HAS BEEN ELIMINATED. THE MAIN POINT IS THAT IT SHOULD

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REALIZE THAT THE PHILIPPINES CANNOT MANAGE WITHOUT A U.S. MILITARY  
PRESENCE. AFTER ALL, INTERFERENCE IN OTHER COUNTRIES' INTERNAL

AFFAIRS CAN TAKE DIFFERENT FORMS. INCLUDING SUCH "NOBLE" ONES...

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